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Utah Watershed Review

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Utah's Nonpoint-Source Water-Quality Newsletter

March/April 2002

Special Issue: Olympics and Environment

The Olympics and Paralympics are over; the banners and temporary buildings are coming down; the venue cities and areas are returning to normal. All that's left is to review the performance of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee.

While the Olympic Games are looked at by much of the world as only a sporting event, the Olympic movement and International Olympic Committee have established three ideals or pillars of Olympism: sport, culture and environment. Most of the reviews about the sporting events and cultural events during the 17 days of the Olympics and nine days of the Paralympics were positive. Many of those impressions came from outside sources including the national and international news media in town covering the events, tourists in town watching the events and surveys of people who watched from their homes throughout the country and the world. The third pillar of the Olympics--environment--is a more local and personal issue. Those from out of town saw how the venues looked and functioned, they experienced the transportation system, but they don't have to live with its legacy.

Though traffic congestion and air pollution were better than expected during the games, local environmental groups set up their own media center and worked closely with the media during the games to point out environmental shortcomings related to the Olympics.

The environmental groups publicized a list of alleged unkept environmental pledges. The list ranged from the use of a fleet of gas guzzling sport-utility vehicles to installing the lighted Olympic Rings in the foothills.

One of the main concerns that Save Our Canyons (SOC) and other environmental groups have is surround the land swap and building of the Olympic downhill ski run at Snowbasin ski resort.



This view from about halfway up the 2002 Winter Olympics men's downhill course at Snowbasin Ski Resort near Ogden, UT shows why erosion control and other environmental stewardship measures are so important high up in the watershed. There's always at least one water body below and people to use the water generated by the snowpack in the mountains.

"The Olympics were used as an excuse to exempt developments from all sorts of traditional environmental review statutes," said Joro Walker, an attorney for the Land and Water Fund of the Rockies, who represented Save Our Canyons in a lawsuit against the Forest Service over design of the ski run.

Gavin Noyes, director of Save Our Canyons, is concerned also about the environmental impacts from the increased attention to Utah's ski industry. He said that the 2002 Olympics will mark the point in history when the Wasatch Range canyons, foothills and open spaces were overrun by development.

Editor's Note

Due to the editor's work assignment with the Salt Lake 2002 Olympics and Paralympics, and a subsequently injury to the editor that kept him out of work for a few weeks, this is the first issue of *Utah Watershed Review* for 2002. Usually by the end of April two issues have been published. We hope to pick up the slack during the summer months. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

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Davis County Schools fair well at Utah Science Olympiad

Every year several hundred high school and intermediate school students from throughout Utah compete in the Science Olympiad at Weber State University in Ogden. They are vying for the chance to represent the state at the national finals later in the year.

This year 34 schools sent as many as 15 students each to take part in the daylong event.

Participants pair up into two-person teams. Each team participates in their choice of five activities from a list of 23. The activities cover several areas of science including chemistry, physics, biology, earth sciences and astronomy.

Shelly Quick, Utah Division of Water Quality leads the water quality section of the Olympiad. With help from Bill Damery, Utah Division of Water Quality and Jack Wilbur, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, they conduct a three-part exam for

the students. Each team has to conduct three simple water chemistry tests, identify eight macro-invertebrates and take a 15-question multiple choice written test.

“While not all schools send full teams or participate in every event, those wanting to go to nationals have to participate in every event,” said Sharon Olmshurst, Utah Science Olympiad director.

The competition is divided into two divisions. The B-division is comprised of intermediate school students (up to 9th grade) and the C-division is open to intermediate schools and high schools. Home school students within the age ranges are eligible as long as they pay the fee and find a school with which to affiliate.

The winning school in the B-division this year is Fairfield Junior High School. Davis High School took top honors in the C-division.

Bear River Celebration Scheduled for April

A festival celebrating the Bear River will be held Saturday, April 27, at the American West Heritage Center, 4025 S. Hwy 89-91, Wellsville, Utah.

The public is invited to the daylong celebration from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Participants can rediscover the Bear River, learn about its natural history and the culture and history of the people living in its watershed. The festival will feature many hands-on activities, entertainment, speakers, displays, and food vendors. There will be games and projects for kids all day.

Students from schools in Wyo-

ming, Idaho, and Utah will be conducting a water quality service project on the site and will also share their experiences on projects throughout the watershed.

Participants can hear about Bear River folklore, enjoy a slide-show tour of the Bear River, test their knowledge by taking the Bear River Quiz, help “build a watershed” on-site, meet the fish and other animals who make the river and its watershed their home.

For more information, or to reserve booth space, call Camille Hansen, 753-3871, ext. 33 or e-mail camille.hansen@utnorthlog.fsc.usda.gov.



High school students try to identify macroinvertebrates during the Utah Science Olympiad in the water quality section.

Utah Watershed Review

EditorJack Wilbur

Editorial Review

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If you would like to request an additional copy, make a comment or suggest a story or watershed focus idea, please call **Jack Wilbur** (801) 538-7098. Or write:

Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
350 North Redwood Road
Box 146500
SLC, UT 84114-6500
E-mail: jwilbur@state.ut.us

2002 Utah NPS Conference

Call for Presentations

Submission Guidelines

The 2002 Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference will be held at the Western Park Convention Center in Vernal, Utah, September 24-26, 2002. This year's theme is "From the Watershed to the Water Faucet."

Possible general topics for presentation include:

- ❑ **Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act**
- ❑ **On-ground Success stories**
 - Rangeland and grazing management**
 - Ground water**
 - Animal Feeding Operations**
 - Onsite waste water management**
 - Urban/construction BMPs**
 - Riparian management/restoration**
 - Habitat Improvement**
- ❑ **Information and Education Efforts**
- ❑ **Watershed Planning and Partnerships**
- ❑ **Research Projects**
- ❑ **TMDL Development**
- ❑ **Interrelationship of Programs**
 - State Revolving Fund**
 - Stormwater/Section 319 NPS relationship**
 - ARDL/Section 319 NPS relationship**
 - State AFO funding/Section 319 Relationship**

Abstract submissions should be approximately 250-300 words in length. Submissions and presentations should be results oriented. We want to know what you have accomplished or what you plan to accomplish if your effort is in its early stages.

The name, title and affiliation of the authors/presenters should appear at the top of the abstract. The telephone number, mailing address and e-mail address of the principle presenter should appear somewhere in the abstract.

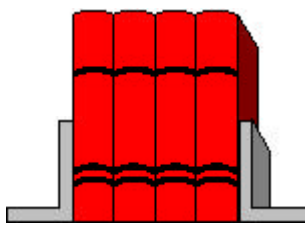
A biographical sketch of the presenter(s) planning to deliver the presentation at the conference should be included at the time of submission on a separate sheet of paper or as separate file if submitting electronically.

Submissions are due **April 12, 2002**. You will be notified by e-mail, mail or telephone by early May if your presentation is accepted. If you have not heard from us by May 1, 2002. Call Jack Wilbur, (801) 538-7098.

Presentation Information

Presentations are scheduled to be 30 minutes long plus 15 minutes for Q&A. You will be informed in plenty of time if there is any deviation from this format. Presenters are encouraged to provide handouts, such as thumbnail copies of powerpoint presentations.

Send Submissions To:
Jack Wilbur
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
PO Box 146500
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-6500
Email: jackwilbur@utah.gov
(801) 538-7098



Learning About Our Water



SLOC Recognizes Environmental Edu

SALT LAKE CITY, UT (USA) - The Salt Lake Organizing Committee for the Winter Olympics of 2002 (SLOC) honored 15 organizations from around the world with the its 3rd Annual *Spirit of the Land Award*. Individual awards were presented on February 19, 2002 in a ceremony hosted by Bill Nye, the Science Guy, and several well-known television and movie personalities at the Winter Olympic Park City Live Site, in Park City, Utah, one of the Olympic Games venues.

“Protecting and improving the environment is integral to every aspect of the Salt Lake 2002 Olympic Winter Games,” stated Mitt Romney, SLOC president and CEO. “Environmental education is the cornerstone to understanding how we have enhanced Utah’s environment while staging the Games. The *Spirit of the Land* award honors the achievements of local and international environmental education leaders.”

According to Diane Conrad Gleason, director of the SLOC Environment Program, The *Spirit of the Land Award* was created to recognize outstanding efforts to educate people about environmental issues in all areas of society—business, education, community, youth and government. SLOC created the award to celebrate “environment,” which joined “sport” and “culture” as the third pillar of Olympism in 1994.

A panel of 15 experts in environmental education from around the world individually reviewed and scored submissions in each award category. Previously, *Spirit of the Land* awards have been presented as part of the Earth Day celebrations in Salt Lake City.

National Winners include:

Going Places, Making Choices:

Transportation and the Environment - Sarah Cahill,

National 4-H Council, Chevy Chase, Maryland:

More than 1,000 organizations have shared this innovative curriculum to help middle and high school students better understand the interdependency among economic, environmental, social, and political concerns impacting transportation, personal choices, and community action. An instructional manual and “train-the-trainer” workshops enhance the program’s effectiveness. Students participating in the program changed their transportation modes, which reduced fossil fuel consumption and pollutants and benefited local land use planning and water quality goals.

The Campus Forestry: Schoolyard Explorers - Christyne Imhoff, TreePeople, Inc., Beverly Hills, California:

This interactive program inspires environmental stewardship in Los Angeles. Teachers receive effective teaching tools, students apply academics to a service-learning project, and over-paved school campuses are restored through strategic tree planting. The curriculum fulfills academic

requirements in math, science, language arts, and social science and shifts from environmental awareness and education to action. Program staffers are working with 15 schools to plant about 40 trees per campus.

2001: A Water Odyssey - Stephanie Darst, Kentucky State Fair Board, Louisville, Kentucky:

An educational exhibit featuring an interpretive watershed landscape, interactive displays, hands-on discovery components, demonstration stations, and printed materials grabbed the attention of thousands of Kentucky State Fair attendees.

Supplemental classroom instructional materials were distributed to student field trip groups. Special Water Odyssey programs targeted under-represented student groups who were invited to demonstrate their individual watershed projects to fair attendees. Local county planners used this project as a reference for revising their erosion control laws to better benefit water quality issues.

The Classroom: Environment for Learning – ***Ron Warnken, Chattahoochee Nature Center, Inc.***

Roswell, Georgia:

Under-represented Atlanta-area students with limited outdoor experiences are targeted by this program. This multidimensional learning experience is integrated into the school’s curriculum, emphasizing environmental education and natural science knowledge. Through the use of critical thinking skills and hands-on experiences, students increased their awareness, became interested in research, and improved writing skills. Pre- and post-program surveys indicated that 97 percent of the more than 300 participating students had a greater depth of natural science understanding and knowledge retention.

Windows on the Wild - Charles J. Ruffing, Eastman Kodak Company with the World Wildlife Fund, Rochester, NY:

This interdisciplinary, hands-on environmental education program enhances community bio-diversity efforts through innovative partnerships and provides quality instructional materials and professional development opportunities for educators. The program’s four building blocks creating a sense of wonder, learning from the community, educating for sustainability, and envisioning a better

future are demonstrated in program products and events, including an educational module, a CD-ROM, professional development workshops across the country, and two traveling exhibitions focusing on bio-diversity.

Environmental Conservation of the Earth Silver Anniversary Initiative - Dr. Edward Dalton, National Energy Foundation, Salt Lake City, Utah:

The National Energy Foundation produces a wide range of environmental materials and programs that promote a better understanding of energy and natural resources, with a special emphasis on wise energy use and management. Among its educational programs operating around the country are Energy Actions in Schools, Igniting Creative Energy Challenge, and the Utah Debate Program.

BELL Business-Environment Learning and Leadership - Liz Cook, World Resources Institute Washington, D.C:

BELL’s mission is to train business people to promote environmental progress by infusing environmental stewardship into management training. The World Resources Institute, in cooperation with top business schools, have institutionalized high-level environmental training into leading graduate programs. Through the Environmental Enterprise Corps, BELL provides internships for business students to work with environmental enterprises in Latin America.

Green Works! - Kathy McGlaufflin, American Forest Foundation, Washington, D.C:

This component of Project Learning Tree (PLT) blends service activities with academic curricula to address real community needs across the nation. PLT-trained educators

Community-based Watershed Activities



tion with Spirit of the Land Awards

receive curricular materials that can be integrated into increasingly popular school service learning projects. GreenWorks! addresses the necessary pedagogical transitions needed to foster practical problem-solving for real-life situations such as wildfire restoration and energy-efficient plantings.

Bioregional Outdoor Education Project – Ken Olson, Four Corners School of Outdoor Education
Monticello, Utah

Educating a generation of residents of the Colorado Plateau to understand their ecosystems and natural processes is the long-term goal of this project. Critical training, program implementation, and instructional resources were provided to 12 rural schools and 3,600 students, many at

Navajo or Ute reservations. This expanding program makes existing environmental curriculum and techniques more accessible to the remote and culturally diverse schools.

Let's Do the Bright Thing – Bill Edmonds, Utah Power, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Students in grades 5-8 participated in classroom activities, received an "Energy Action Kit," and applied at home the energy-saving technologies gleaned from their kits. Teachers helped students understand how to reduce electrical, gas, and water usage at home. More than 5,000 students and 120 teachers participated.

International Winners include:

Cameron Highlands Nature Education Centre - Mathan Lal, World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia, Petaling Jaya, Malaysia:

This community-based nature education center conducts conservation workshops helping local residents explore the Cameron Highlands

and understand the importance of its forests in supplying water to Malaysia.

Activities include on-site visits to a water treatment plant and other places that impact the water supply.

Environmental Education and Tree-Planting for Northern Tanzania - Sebastian Chuwa, African Blackwood Conservation Project, Tanzania, Africa:

The primary focus of this project is the replenishment of the threatened

African blackwood tree. Organized youth conservation groups are taught the principles of conservation and operate nurseries in order to carry on reforestation in the area of Mount Kilimanjaro. To date, these groups have planted 500,000 trees on the mountain.

Sports for Life Programme Kenya - Dr. Elizabeth Odera, Sadili Oval Sports Center
Nairobi, Kenya:

This program provides 6,400 children from different economic situations with an opportunity to become environmentally conscious. It combines sport and environment in the most practical way, providing sport training for children and involving them in weekly environmental projects like community cleanup, recycling, and tree planting. The program has inspired children to take a more active role in their own education: truancy rates for one involved community have dropped from 65 percent to 12 percent.

Ecological Education of Children in Russia - Yelena Sedletskaia, Moscow Children's Ecological Center, Moscow, Russia:

Center themes for 2001 included "Radiation without Secrets," which taught the basics of radiation contamination and encouraged teachers and students to inspect their schools with the help of radiation meters, maps, and information lists. The

"National Tree Monuments of Moscow" encouraged green space in Moscow by identifying and mapping centurion trees and teaching children how to preserve them.

Blue Thumb Project - A Way of Using Drinking Water Wisely - Mirosław Gaweda, Regional Environmental Education Center, Krakow, Poland:

To heighten awareness about the importance of protecting drinking water in communities, this project targeted school kids, their parents, and neighbors with Blue Thumb Clubs for local children. Organizers also conducted training workshops for more than 700 teachers.

For more information, Jeanne Shaw in SLOC Media Relations at (801)

212-4241. A complete archive of SLOC news releases is available at www.saltlake2002.com.

The **Environment Program of the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) for the Winter Olympics of 2002** ensures that SLOC displays environmental sensitivity in venue development and operation, educates both Utahns and their guests on sound environment practices, and leaves a legacy of improvement to the region. The SLOC Environment Program has been supported by the participation of several Environmental Champions, including: Anheuser-Busch, Utah Power/Pacificorp, the USDA Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, and Coca-Cola.

<www.saltlake2002.com>



This is the Spirit of the Land Award won by the Kentucky State Fair Board for 2001: A Water Odyssey. Each of this year's winners and winners in past years received similar marble plaques.

Despite March Storms, Drought Still Real

Much of Northern Utah woke up to a St. Patrick's Day surprise, and it wasn't green. Anywhere from eight to 12 inches of snow fell in most valley locations and the mountains got much more. Yet water officials warn that Utah is still in the middle of a four year drought.

Water Users Meeting Talks Drought, Sets Attendance Record

By George Hopkin
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food

The Utah Water User's Workshop under the direction of Dr. Bob Hill of Utah State University Cooperative Extension, and the Water User's Board of Directors came back the to the Dixie Center in St. George, Utah in big way. The two-day meeting beginning on March 12, 2002 brought 629 registrants, a record number for this popular meeting of the states powerful water interests and managers.

The main topic at this years sometimes sunny and sometimes windy winter gathering was the western drought while the Wasatch Front was being hit by a "lake affect" storm that left 59 inches of snow in the tops of the Cottonwood Canyons, and the drive back to the north less than enjoyable. During the summer of 2001, Gov. Mike Leavitt called together the managers of the five largest water conservancy districts in the State. Their task was to develop and to present a statewide and well coordinated water conservation plan through a media campaign that was to begin in September of last year. The keynote address at this Workshop was a report of what each of these individuals and their organization have done and are continuing to do about conservation during the lengthy drought. Larry Anderson, Director of the Division of Water Resources, moderated the panel. The presentations were given by Tage Flint, manager, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District; Dave Ovard, manager, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District; Nick Sefakis, manger, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy; Gene Shawcroft, manager, Central Utah Water Conservancy District; and Ron Thompson, manager, Washington County Water Conser-

The storms did help, raising the average snowpack of some Northern Utah drainages by as much as 11 percent closer to average for this time of year. However, this year not even average is nearly good enough to stop the worst drought in Utah in 21 years.

vancy District. The workshop then provided a wide variety of subjects that covered water quantity, water quality, and water law, together with water conservation. Throughout these presentations, examples were detailed about what is currently underway in the state. Other speakers who addressed the entire group were Tom Donnelly and Dr. Chuck Gay standing in for the new Vice President of USU Cooperative Extension, Dr. Jack Payne. Mr. Donnelly is President-elect of the National Water Resources Association who provided an in depth review of the new congress and those issues that relate to the Clean Water Act, the Drinking Water Act, and Endangered Species Act. He told those assemble that it is highly important that these federal environmental laws need to be understood, and although not yet reenacted by Congress due to its inability to agree on the details, water users groups need to make their opinions known, and to stay active in the process as these laws are debated in Congress. Dr. Gay told the group that water is increasingly scarce as society increases, and as multiple and many times competing demands are placed on it. He spoke of the need for educational and outreach programs for an ever-increasing public, and for state and federal agencies. He said the it is man

The meeting ended on Wednesday evening with the traditional banquet, again attended by a record number people. Clyde Bunker of Delta, Utah, the new president of Utah Water Users was introduced and given his gavel by out going President, Dave Ovard. Bunker will serve a two-year term of office. Next years meeting will be held on March 3 and 4, 2003 in the same facility.

Sponge soil

According to Randy Julander, snow survey supervisor for the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service, soil moisture is one of the keys during this year's runoff season. Normal snowpack will probably provide less than normal runoff into reservoirs because the dry soils will absorb more of the moisture as the snow melts. This has been the case the past two years when usually dry summers and autumns resulted in very thirsty soil the following spring. Add to that the fact that reservoirs are already far below the level they should be and the it is clear the normal won't cut it this year. According to Julander the dry soil could gulp up as much as 50 percent of the snowmelt in some areas. But he admits it's really hard to estimate how much water the soil will take.

One thing Julander is certain of is that Utah is in trouble if the snowpack doesn't surpass average. As of now it would take several wet weeks following the one in mid-March to get to that point.

What a difference a week makes

As of March 11, 2002, the Provo River/Utah Lake/Jordan River drainage was 76 percent of normal. One week later the same area was 87 percent of normal. Other Northern Utah drainages fared nearly as well. The Bear river drainage jumped

from 77 percent to 83 percent, the Weber and Ogden rivers drainage increased in snowpack from 78 percent as of March 11th ot 86 percent as of March 18th and the Tooele Valley/Vernon Creek drainage increased from 66 percent to 73 percent in a week.

Southern Utah watersheds aren't doing nearly as well, however. The Dirty Devil drainage was unchanged at 70 percent of average, the Beaver River watershed increased 10 percent but still sits at only 59 percent of normal, and the Virgin River snowpack grew only two percent from 32 percent to 34 percent of average for this time of year.

Dry summer could impact everyone

The Weber Basin Water Conservancy District is looking at cutting water allocations to farmers by 25 percent as a first step. The district also plans to prohibit residential outside watering between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Offenders will get one warning before the district will shut off service.

In Salt Lake City, officials already are asking residents to voluntarily start conserving water, but public works officials say that mandatory outdoor watering restrictions may start as early as June if the level of Deer Creek Reservoir does not improve.



This scene on March 18th in the Salt Lake Valley along the Jordan River and the snowy vistas witnessed by billions of television viewers during the recent Winter Olympic Games won't mean much this summer if reservoir don't fill. Currently the prognosis is not encouraging.

Water Publications Spread Good Ideas

From *News Notes* to *Natural News* and many others, periodic water quality and water resources publication can be useful as sources of inspiration and good ideas.

Some of these publications are national in scope, while others focus on one region, state or watershed. Likewise, some of the periodicals have a narrow focus and some cover a broader variety of topics.

What follows is a brief explanation of what a few water-related publications are about. This is by no mean a complete list.

The Volunteer Monitor

The Volunteer Monitor bills itself as "The national newsletter of volunteer watershed monitoring." The winter 2002 issue is dedicated to stories about monitoring beaches and reefs. The stories document the real world experiences of several groups involved in beach and reef monitoring. The articles also explain how the group go about their monitoring protocols.

The Volunteer Monitor is produced by the River Network, a nonprofit organization from Portland, OR. For a free subscription contact: River Network
520 SW 6th Avenue, Suite 1130
Portland, OR 97204.

NPS News Notes

Nonpoint Source (NPS) News Notes is another national water quality publication. It focuses on a variety of NPS issues nationally as well as providing states and tribes an opportunity to showcase some of their projects.

The January 2002 issue focussed land use and water resources. Some of the specific stories within the focus subject include "Low-Impact Development: A new Movement in Storm Water Management" and "Assessing the Benefits of Effective Planning: Metro Square vs. Suburbia."

Some of the national stories in this issue are about the Section 319 Monitoring Program.

State and tribal news in this issue come from all parts of the country including New Mexico, Ohio and Washington D.C.

The education section offers stories from Hawaii and Alabama.

For more information about this publication write:

News Notes
c/o/Terrene Institute
4 Herbert Street
Alexandria, VA 22305.

Resources Update

Resources Update is a publication of the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District from Southern California. This is an example of a local publication that can serve to inspire or give ideas to groups and organizations from far away.

The lead article in the Winter 2002 issue is about the Resource Conservation Center. The center is working toward sustainable communities through a variety of projects and services. Some of these projects and services include:

- Removal of invasive plant species from riparian areas,
 - Irrigation water management evaluation for land users,
 - ☎◆♣♣◆◆✂□■ programs concerning stormwater, trees, soil, etc.,
 - Lumber milling of urban trees for local use,
 - An onsite native plant nursery.
- The publication also has a large amount of space dedicated to a story about volunteers providing "homes" and habitat for 29 baby bluebirds.

This community based publication goes a little beyond water-only issues, but it does a good job of tying together the various resources and resource needs of one local area.

Natural News

EPA's Region VIII office in Denver, CO. puts out a newsletter called *Natural News*. This publication is produced by the Ecosystems Protection Program and is part of the Community Based Environmental Protection initiative.

Many of the stories have to do with the efforts of volunteer monitoring groups throughout the region.

One interesting story in the Winter 2002 issue was an explanation of how total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and the Clean Water Act fit into watershed management. Hamilton describes how different parts of the TMDL process fit into different sections of the Clean Water



Several government and nonprofit organization newsletters and magazines are available for free or a nominal price. These publications can be useful to local watershed committees, local agencies and statewide groups.

Act.

For more information about this publication, contact the newsletter editor, Stacey Eriksen by telephone at (303) 312-6692, or by email at eriksen.stacey@epa.gov.

River Report

The Colorado River Project *River Report* is produced by the Water Education Foundation of Sacramento, CA.

This publication is interesting because it is an example of a watershed or basinwide publication that just happens to cover parts of seven states.

In the most recent issue, the publication features a look at the Las Vegas portion of the Colorado River allocation: how the use and care for this vital resource. The Las Vegas Wash plays an important role because it is the conduit of return flows to Lake Mead.

Because the was drains the entire Las Vegas valley into the lake, Las Vegas is the largest direct discharger into the Colorado River.

Sediments and other pollutants are a big concern to Las Vegas and other Lower Colorado River Water Users Association members. However, water quantity remains Southern Nevada's biggest problem.

The publication also has a "Basin Briefs" section that looks at local and sub-basin issues along the river and a calendar of upcoming events.

For more information about the publication or to receive a copy, please contact:

Water Education Foundation
717 K St. Suite 317
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 444-6240
fax (916) 448-7699

In the Next Issue:

The next issue of *Utah Watershed Review*, will look at the Visual Stream Assessment Protocol technique for assessing stream health designed and being implemented by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. There will also be preview of the upcoming 2002 Utah Nonpoint Source Water Quality Conference, scheduled for September in Vernal, Utah.

Other stories and fucuses will include a round up of Earth Day events around the state and an update on how Envision Utah and the Governor's Quality Growth Commission are handling Utah's fast-growing population.

sions reductions of businesses made it possible for SLOC to claim a net zero emissions for the 2002 Olympic Games.

Zero Waste

Zero Waste was SLOC's attempt to reduce the amount of waste landfilled through a combination of waste stream engineering, recycling and composting. Through this program, SLC composted about 85 percent of its waste stream.

Enhancement Initiatives

"The Winter Olympics are a big promotion for the ski industry and what has happened since 1996 is that ski resort terrain in Utah has grown 44 percent," said Noyes. "We're not against the Olympics, but it has brought with it unprecedented growth and a major environmental impact." Despite criticism of some of their environmental decisions and a seriously reduced environmental budget following the Olympic bid bribery scandal, SLOC is proud of its environmental programs. SLOC's environmental program included Zero Emissions, zero waste, aquatic habitat restoration, urban forestry and recognition and education efforts.

Zero Emissions

The Olympics obviously could not be emissions-free. From fleets of personal vehicles to transport officials and athletes, to fleets of buses to transport spectators, volunteers and athletes, to miscellaneous items such as gas powered generators and the natural gas powered Olympic torches, the Olympics generated emissions. To achieve zero emissions SLOC got businesses to donate unused emissions credits. The emis-



The ski jumps at Olympic Park near Park City are on the Save Our Canyons list of worst environmental moves by SLOC.



The finish line shows where the men's downhill run (right) and the women's downhill run meet in front of the grandstand.



After lawsuits, high construction costs and last minutes work on the venue, the ski runs at Snowbasin ski resort was ready for the 20,000 to 25,000 spectators a day during the Olympics.

Aquatic habitat restoration has been one of the successful programs in SLOC's environmental arsenal. SLOC is working with local governments and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers on two aquatic habitat restoration projects: Decker Lake, which collects storm water runoff from the E Center (ice hockey venue)

and Soldier Hollow, the site of the biathlon, cross-country, and Nordic combined events. Both projects will improve surface water quality and migratory bird habitat.

Urban Forestry

SLOC promoted several urban forestry initiatives including:

- Plant it Green 2002!
- CoolSpaces 2002
- Capitol Tree Program
- Tree-cology

Environmental Champions

The 2002 Olympic Environmental Champions Program provided the opportunity for companies to support the SLOC Environmental Program through nonspecific funding and value-in-kind support. Several agencies and businesses including Utah Power, the U.S. Forest Service

and Anheuser-Busch contributed to the program.

Education

From "Bill Nye the Science Guy" taping two public service announcements and a 12-minute video about the "Salt Lake Valley Watershed and You" to the Spirit of the Land Awards (see a more detailed accounting of this program on pages 4-5), SLOC has received great praise for its environmental education programs. SLOC also put out a magazine called the Natural Inquirer designed to take scientific research and translate it into language young people can understand.

The Verdict

The agencies, organizations and people who benefited directly from SLOC's environmental initiatives seemed pleased.

"Because of the hard work and commitment of people who care about the environment, we have shared Utah's beauty during the Olympics, while protecting Utah's resources," said Dianne R. Nielson, executive director, Utah Department of Environmental Quality.

Save our Canyons and other interest groups agreed that some of SLOC's initiatives were good. Those include: the Snowbasin Access Road Collaboration, Soldier Hollow Venue Selection Process, Olympic Tree Program, Spirit of the Land Awards, Decker Lake and the portions of the Air Quality Plan.

Some of the worst things about SLOC's environmental record, according to those groups include: the Snowbasin land exchange, Soldier Hollow wetlands mitigation failure and the Olympic Sports Park.